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KINGSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1959

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KINGSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1959

Medical Officer of Health: DR. R. B. WALKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health: DR. W. H. COWPER, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector: MR. L. J. HILL, A.M.I.MUN.E., M.R.S.H.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Report on the health of the district for the year 1959.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in Acres)—1,147½.

Population—The Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population—3,110.

Number of inhabited houses at 31st March 1959 according to the Rate Book—1,055.

Number of unoccupied houses—18.

Rateable Value as at 1st April 1959—£47,487.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£192.

The town of Kingsbridge is the market centre of an agricultural and highly attractive country district, and its inhabitants are mainly engaged in commerce.

The social conditions are generally favourable to health and longevity.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate ...	52	30	22
Illegitimate ...	1	1	—
	—	—	—
	53	31	22

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 17%

Still Births ...	—	—	—

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births): 17%.

Deaths	49	24	25

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 15.7%

Deaths from Maternal causes (heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and still births)
*Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:

All Infants per 1,000 live births	—
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	—
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	12
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—

CAUSES OF DEATH

		M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ...	—	—
2.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Disease	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	—
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	—	1
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	~~1~~ 5
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	—
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	2	2
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—
16.	Diabetes	—	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	1	3
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	4	5
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	—
20.	Other Heart Diseases	5	4
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	1	1
22.	Influenza	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	~~2~~	~~1~~
24.	Bronchitis	—	1
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	2	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—
30.	*Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	3	1
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—
34.	All other Accidents	—	~~1~~
35.	Suicide	1	—
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	—	—
		~~22~~	~~21~~
		24	25

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

The Public Health Officers of the Authority are a Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of Plympton Rural District, Kingsbridge Rural District and Salcombe Urban District).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional).

One full-time Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. The Public Health Laboratory Service provides a service at the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth, for the investigation of communicable diseases and the examination of milk, water supplies, ice cream and footstuffs, etc.

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES. The Devon County health handbook gives details of the various services provided in the district by the County.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

DURING THE YEAR 1959

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Measles	54	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	5	—	—
	59	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1959

	New cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Age Periods	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY. I feel that two comments only are necessary this year on this subject. The new filtration plant which I mentioned in the report for 1958 did come into action during 1959, and, although the summer period was the driest ever recorded, it was pleasing to observe that the district was not subjected to restrictions on the supply of water.

The quality of the water supplied continues excellent.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. Further machine cleaning of the trunk and principal sewers was undertaken during the year to complete the programme started in 1958. I am advised that the system should now function satisfactorily for many years.

PUBLIC CLEANSING. The existing system remains in operation and I am satisfied that the refuse is efficiently removed and disposed of hygienically and economically.

HOUSING. The demand on the Council for new houses or other accommodation seems to be mainly for the compact, easily worked flats or bungalows which have proved so successful, although a small but steady demand exists for other houses.

The difficulty which faces the Council is the scarcity of suitable building land but toward the end of 1959 this problem had been largely solved.

The dwellings proposed to be built on this ground will be designed for old folks and for younger people, mainly those to be dispossessed under the slum clearance programme.

During the year a scheme was approved in principle for the modernisation of some of the older houses, and I look forward to the time when all the older type of Council properties have been modernised to the high standard which the Council has set itself in its later housing programmes.

FOOD

1. The numbers of types of food premises in the area remain as follows:

Greengrocer, 5; Grocer, 14; Butcher, 5; Restaurants, 6; Wet Fish Shops, 1; Fried Fish Shops, 2; Baker, 4.

In addition to the above, one person maintains premises for the reception, cleaning and preparation for sale of wet fish and thereafter sells from a properly constructed vehicle.

2. The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is as follows:

Manufacture of Icecream	1
Storage of Icecream for sale	23
Preparation or manufacture of Sausages, etc.	4
Number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1954 ...	3

3. The number of inspections of food premises in the year was 37. This number does not include re-visits where found necessary. The general standard of food premises in the town is good

4. THE METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD: In the rare cases where large amounts are required to be disposed of, this is done through a recognised firm specialising in the preparation of fertilizers, etc. In other cases, goods are removed by the refuse collection gang and buried at the disposal site, or burnt in the furnace of the local laundry.

5. It was not necessary during the year for any special examination of a stock or consignment of food to be undertaken.

APPENDIX

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part:

	Cattle Excludng Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Nnmber killed (if known)	214	—	2	609	—	—
Number inspected	193	—	2	433	3	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned			Nil			
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	38			11		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease, etc	19.7%			2.54%		
Tuberculosis only:	1					
Cysticercosis			Nil			

The apparent increase in the number of animals suffering from some form of disease on post mortem inspection, when compared with the 1958 figures should not be taken too seriously.

Almost the whole of the increase is due to one cause only, the invasion of the liver by the common liver fluke. It may well be that this increase is, at least in part, due to the wet conditions which we suffered before the dry summer and during the previous seasons when the animals were being fed on for beef.

NUISANCES, Etc.

Number of complaints received:	
(a) alleging nuisances	11
(b) alleging housing defects	218
(c) other complaints	8
Nuisances proved	9
Minor housing repairs dealt with	217
Other complaints remedied	5
Informal letters sent	7
Statutory Notices	1
Total number of inspections in connection with erection of new houses and conversions, including new Council houses	67
Total number of inspections in connection with Public Health	82

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises (1)	No. in Register (3)	Inspect'ns (4)	Number of Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosec'd (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	42	22	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out - workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	47	25	—	—

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. B. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1960.